

come here as someone who is just a few years from retirement, with a personal interest in having a Medicare system that will last.

Let us look at the facts. The trustees of the Medicare system have said that the system will be bankrupt in 7 years if we do not do something about it: Fact 1.

Fact No. 2: The costs of the Medicare system are rising roughly 2½ times as fast as they are rising in private sector insurance. That is fact No. 2.

Fact No. 3: is that the revenue coming into the Medicare system this year for the first time is going to fall behind the money being spent by the Medicare system. That is fact No. 3.

The Republicans have no plans to cut Medicare. In fact, we want to preserve it. That is fact No. 4.

What do we want to do? Frankly, from my perspective, we want to improve Medicare. We want to have it persist. We want to give people choices, HMO's and other things. We want competition, we want efficiency, and we want a better system. That is what we are going to work for.

MEDICARE CUTS: WHY PICK ON OUR GRANDPARENTS FIRST?

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this week America celebrates the 30th anniversary of Medicare. Thirty years ago, Medicare brought to our senior population, for the first time, health security they never enjoyed before. They knew that whatever their circumstances, medical care would be available if they suffered from sickness or accident.

All that is threatened now. The majority party's budget does wage war on Medicare. It cuts \$270 billion from Medicare to finance tax breaks for the privileged few. Seniors will lose their choice of physician unless they can afford to pay more. Everybody in this place can, because they earn \$130,000 a year. Their budget will provide seniors cut-rate, substandard medical care unless they can afford to pay more. Their proposed cuts will deprive seniors of the security Medicare now provides, unless they can afford to pay more.

To curb costs, why not rein in rising insurance company premiums costs, along with hospital costs and prescription drug costs? Why pick on our grandparents first? Let us not let America backpedal into the 21st century.

TOP 10 NICKNAMES FOR LIBERAL PLAN FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, quickly, we are not out to cut Medi-

care, we are out to save it and improve it. That is the key difference.

Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, we have the top 10 nicknames for the liberal plan for Medicare, or the lack thereof:

No. 10: The X Files Plan.

No. 9: The Medicare Plan.

No. 8: The Let-It-Go-Broke Plan.

No. 7: The Blank Page Plan.

No. 6: The Stick-Your-Head-in-the-Sand Plan.

No. 5: The We-Don't-Need-No-Stink-ing-Plan Plan.

No. 4: The Extra Top Secret "We Don't Even Know it Ourselves" Plan.

No. 3: The Change-the-Subject Plan.

No. 2: The "Bash Conservative Republicans, Ignore the Solution" Plan.

And the No. 1 nickname for the liberal plan on Medicare: The Invisible Plan.

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am a product of good affirmative action. Aggressive outreach programs represent good affirmative action.

Discrimination unfortunately does exist in this country. We must identify those who break antidiscrimination laws and we must punish them swiftly and severely.

Quotas, set-asides, and race norming are all related. They are close cousins. I abhor them all.

Race norming was eliminated in 1991; quotas are despised by everyone; and set-asides, which like quotas refers to proportional representation, should also be banned.

They attempt to help minorities and women but they create racial tension and they stigmatize their benefactors as products of a flawed system.

Seventy-seven percent of African-Americans oppose preferential treatment for minorities, according to a Gallup Poll.

There is nothing wrong with having goals coupled with rigorous outreach, but race and gender-based set-asides are wrong.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT CALLED IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is the first time I have spoken on the floor this year about a statement of the Speaker, but I feel compelled to do so today.

His comment yesterday that he is not convinced that Vincent Foster committed suicide was highly irresponsible.

There is no evidence to support the notion that the death of Vincent Foster was not a suicide. It is not a subject to inquiry in the hearing now under way in this Congress.

The Speaker has shot from the hip before, but when it comes to matters of life and death, there is no good excuse.

No one, especially a Government official and surely the Speaker, can be too busy to think about the ramifications of what he says before he talks.

I urge the Speaker to reflect further and withdraw his comment. We need to appeal to the better instincts of our citizenry and not to reinforce or encourage, inadvertently or not, those who try to spread paranoia or unfounded conspiracy theories for whatever purpose, political or otherwise.

HAITI

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I was approached by a group of Haitians requesting aid for their ailing nation. The group included Duly Brutus, a member of the opposition party, and also Josette Bouto, the mayor of a small town in northern Haiti. They painted a graphic picture of devastating conditions in Haiti.

The mayor had a special request of pencils and paper for the poor school in her town of Limbe. With the help of pencil and paper manufacturers, I secured the contribution of 800,000 sheets of paper and 5,500 pencils that were shipped on July 14 by the AID. The educational materials will be distributed in towns and schools in dire need of them, particularly the small town of Limbe.

This week, I learned of the arrest of Mr. Brutus. He is charged with allegedly committing arson, although many believe that because Mr. Brutus was active in opposing President Jean Paul Aristide, he may be a political prisoner. This arrest has added validity to election observers' statements that fraud and abuse in Haiti's political system is widespread. Furthermore, I have learned that the school in Limbe that was to receive the small contributions was burned to the ground.

These incidents illustrate how far from democracy Haiti is and how long a journey it must make. Although I fear an increased United States presence there, we must continue to support peace and democracy in Haiti and in our hemisphere.

IRS AND STRAIGHTENING OUT THE TAX MESS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. The IRS said our goal is to learn how taxpayers cheat so

we are going to conduct 153,000 additional special audits of American taxpayers that will cost them \$1.5 billion.

Check this out. You file a joint return, they demand to see the marriage license. You claim children, they demand the birth certificates. They demand all household expenses and want a detailed list of every single financial transaction. A W-2 form is not enough. They want a special affidavit from your boss. After all this, they call it voluntary.

Beam me up.

The truth is, while Congress keeps turning the other cheek on the IRS, the IRS keeps turning the screws on the American people.

Let us get down to business and straighten this tax mess out.

MEDICARE: THE REPUBLICAN VIEW

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, since taking control of Congress, Republicans have proven that politicians can go to Washington and actually keep their word. We have not ducked the tough issues and we are not going to start now.

This spring, the Medicare trustees reported that Medicare will go broke in 7 years. Since then, Republicans have faced this issue head-on. We have not tried to duck or hide like some of the Members on the other side of the aisle have. But, you see, many of these Members cannot help it. They are the remnants of the old Washington establishment which was rejected by the voters last November, where it was standard operating procedure to avoid the tough issues, to look the other way, and to run from responsibility. It is outside of their political world view to meet an issue head-on, to take a tough position, to show leadership, and follow through with commonsense solutions.

Medicare is going bankrupt. It may be 30 years old this week, but it is condemned to death at age 37 unless action is taken.

Republicans are working to protect and strengthen Medicare. We ask the Democrats to join us. This is too important an issue to fall into partisan bickering.

TOP 10 REPUBLICAN REASONS TO CUT MEDICARE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, from the home office of New York's 17th Congressional District in the Bronx, here are the top 10 reasons why Republicans want to cut Medicare:

No. 10, a Republican memo says older Americans are pack oriented and want to follow a leader;

No. 9, on the 30th anniversary of Medicare, Republicans say don't trust anybody or anything over 30;

No. 8, Republicans need the money to pay for a big tax cut for the wealthy;

No. 7, \$270 billion in cuts is a nice round number;

No. 6, Republicans want seniors to choose between buying food and buying medicines;

No. 5, according to DICK ARMEY, Medicare is a program that he would have no part of in a free world;

No. 4, Republicans want to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class;

No. 3, Republicans think if 40 million Americans don't have health care, why should seniors?

No. 2, Republicans want to see seniors go from Medicare to welfare;

And the No. 1 reason why Republicans want to cut Medicare is:

Medicare, Schmedicare, Who needs health care in a brave new world!

WASTEFUL PRACTICES COST MEDICARE BILLIONS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the top 10 reasons why the Democrats cannot solve the Medicare problem is they do not tell the straight facts. I can say that 10 times, but I do not want to use all my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare Program, because this program is spending so much money. It is alleged that almost 12 percent of the entire Medicare-Medicaid budget is rife with fraud and abuse.

Let me share some facts. In 1980 Medicare spent \$34 billion. In 1990 that sum had increased to \$107 billion. In 1995 it will spend approximately \$177 billion. When Willie Sutton was asked why he robbed banks, he responded, "That's where the money is."

Is it any wonder with billions of dollars at stake that all manner of scoundrels and ne'er-do-wells would plunder this Government bank account for all it is worth.

Over the next few weeks I plan to talk a good deal about this problem which is costing the taxpayers billions of dollars. I also plan to talk about what we can do to remedy the fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare Program.

MEDICARE: THE DEMOCRATIC VIEW

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday I turn 55 and Medicare turns 30. I think I have got a better chance of survival than Medicare does because the Republicans do not have quite as much oversight on my future as they do on Medicare's.

I will tell you why they are robbing Medicare—the same reason they rob banks. That's where the money is.

Medicare needs some reforms, we know that. But you take the money you save from the reforms and you put it back in Medicare. If Medicare is in trouble, which we all agree it could be because of the rising cost of health care, you certainly do not take \$270 billion out of it to fund a tax cut.

Look, this is all about a tax cut for the rich. That is all it is about. What we are saying is that it is totally unfair to take the money out of the pockets of the elderly who had planned on this, who had counted on this, and they do not want to see one more Government promise undercut.

PRESERVING MEDICARE

(Mr. TATE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I have not done a 1-minute on the floor for probably several weeks, but I can be silent no longer.

Every day I turn on and hear the words "mean-spirited" and "callous." I am coming to believe that if those words were eliminated from the minority party's vocabulary, there would truly be silence on that side of the well.

Nothing could be more callous and more mean-spirited than to sit back and do nothing. All I can think of, Mr. Speaker, is retirees back in my district that are on fixed incomes. Grandmothers and grandfathers across this country that are concerned about Medicare.

What do the Democrats do? They do nothing. Absolutely nothing. They have even ignored their own President's report that came out and stated clearly that Medicare would go broke in 7 years if we do nothing. The American people deserve more than scare tactics from liberal Democrats. The American people want to preserve and to protect Medicare.

SHOW US THE PLAN

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, picture yourself as a homeowner who has just entered a contract for some home repairs. What would you do if the contractor showed up, not with a pickup and some tools on the back but, rather, driving a crane with a huge wrecking ball swinging from the turret? You would say, "Wait a minute. You don't do home repair with a wrecking ball."

Well, that is precisely what the Republicans are proposing to do to Medicare. They are saying, "We're here to fix it." But they have a \$270 billion cut they intend to inflict on this program. That is like trying to fix a home with a wrecking ball. It won't work. It will